

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Anna Gutowska

Application No. 09/209,541

Filed: December 11, 1998

For: REVERSIBLE GELING CO-POLYMER AND
METHOD OF MAKING

Examiner: Jeffrey C. Mullis

Date: January 13, 2003

Art Unit: 1711

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on January 13, 2003 as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

Attorney for Applicant

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

This is in response to the Office action dated August 15, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 31-36 are pending in the current application. Reconsideration in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

No New Matter Has Been Added to the Specification or the Claims

The Examiner alleges that the addition of material to the specification via the Preliminary Amendment filed on April 25, 2002 is new matter, unsupported by the original specification. Applicants disagree.

The specification was amended to add the following clarification:

As described above, in order to form a gel, a sufficient number of oligo [meth-]acrylamide derivative side chains must be included in the resulting biodegradable graft copolymers such that the bioactivity of the biological molecules of the backbone is not preserved and therefore the graft copolymers as described do not include polymer/protein bioconjugates.

This clarifying language was added to aid the Examiner in his understanding between the differences of the present compositions and those disclosed in the Hoffman